

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Telling the story of the Vietnam War was demanding politically and professionally for journalists. Explore "Reporting Vietnam" to learn how reporters dealt with these challenges, then visit the Time Warner World News gallery to see what's changed – and what hasn't – in war coverage today.

### Visit Level 6, "Reporting Vietnam" Exhibit

**Military:** The military developed a strategy called Operation Maximum Candor that shaped its relationship with the news media. What was the strategy's goal? How did it affect reporters on the ground?

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**Government:** War presents challenges for reporters pursuing the truth. Find at least four examples in the exhibit where the U.S. government intentionally lied or misled the public through the news media.

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Why did government/military officials do this?

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Explain the short- and long-term effects of these actions on reporters and coverage of the war.

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**Ethics:** Journalists have professional standards – often called a code of ethics – to help them decide what is the right and responsible thing to do on the job. Pick one of the two iconic photos from the Vietnam War shown below. List the pros and cons for publishing that image.



"Tet Execution," by Eddie Adams (Newseum collection)



"Accidental Napalm," by Nick Ut (Newseum collection)

IMAGE	
PROS	
CONS	

If you were a newspaper editor at the time, would you have published the photograph? Why or why not?

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Please continue to the next page.

Please go to the **TIME WARNER WORLD NEWS GALLERY/JOURNALISTS MEMORIAL** on Level 3

**Conflict today:** The United States protects freedom of speech, but it doesn't have the world's freest press. Use the World Press Freedom Map or interactive kiosks to compare and contrast countries ranked high on the list with those ranked at the bottom.

	FREE	NOT FREE
<b>Top 3 and bottom 3 countries</b>	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.
<b>Types of political systems in those countries</b>		
<b>Factors contributing to their rating</b>		

Use the interactive kiosk to learn about freedoms in the United States. Where does the USA rank? Do you think this ranking is accurate or fair? Why or why not?

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**Different time, same challenges?** Compare and contrast challenges reporters faced in covering the Vietnam War with challenges of covering world conflicts today.

SIMILARITIES

DIFFERENCES

1. \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please continue to the next page.

### AT HOME/IN THE CLASSROOM – Influential Music

Musicians wrote songs to voice their opinions on war, politics and society – in turn influencing public opinion about the Vietnam War. The songs in the Newseum's exhibit represent a variety of images of America and the Vietnam War from 1963 to 1973.

Listen to song excerpts on the Newseum's website: [www.newseum.org/tag/reporting-Vietnam+music](http://www.newseum.org/tag/reporting-Vietnam+music). Then, select three songs you want to investigate further.

Write down the title, artist and release date for each song.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Now, listen closely to the song's lyrics.

Song title	What topics (the draft, politics, society, etc.) are addressed in the song? How are these topics described?	Summarize the song's message in 1-2 sentences.

Choose an image from one of the songs. Describe the image and explain why it is powerful.

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**Get published!** Using one of the songs above for inspiration, write a verse about war, politics or society today.

**TEACHERS:** Submit your students' work for publication on the Newseum Education blog by emailing [educationprograms@newseum.org](mailto:educationprograms@newseum.org) with the subject line: Reporting Vietnam Submission.

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### AT HOME/IN THE CLASSROOM – Conduct an Interview

Interview an older adult (family member, friend, neighbor, teacher, etc.) who was alive during the Vietnam War to get a personalized account of the war that divided the nation. Use these questions to help guide your conversation. Then prepare a short report to share with your class and/or the Newseum.

**TEACHERS:** Submit your students' work by emailing [educationprograms@newseum.org](mailto:educationprograms@newseum.org) with the subject line: Reporting Vietnam Submission.

Name of person interviewed

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How old were you during the Vietnam War?

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Where were you living, and what were you doing?

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Did you serve in the military? If yes, are you willing to talk about some of your experiences? Did you feel support from the American public during the war? After you came home?

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Do you remember anything about the press coverage of the war? Did you think it was accurate? Did your opinion change over time?

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What is your strongest memory from that era?

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How were you affected by the war?

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